

When God asks YOU to do a miracle!

What a concept! God asking you to do a miracle. It is usually us asking God and then waiting impatiently

But what happens when God asks YOU to do the miracle? Well, we get all antsy and super humble, "Oh, I couldn't." Maybe we forget the verse that says His disciples will do even greater work than He did. OW!

And it also depends on what you might consider a "miracle." Some miracles are very natural – the birth of a baby. It IS miraculous. Then there are the miracles that are "supernatural." Those that are beyond our understanding of nature and the natural order – blind eyes being made to see, deaf ears that are opened. These come by God's volition, when He chooses to move and sometimes in response to our prayers. But there is another set of miracles, the miracles that God asks us to do that also falls into the category of the "supernatural." Supernatural – that which is above/beyond nature, beyond the normal, beyond the natural. Most of us might not recognize the actions as "miracles" but God does. And the miracles He asks us to do fall solidly into a unique category.

Again, you might not even recognize them as miracles, but they often are the kind of things that leave people with their mouths open. Let's start with the miracle of forgiveness. It is not something that may come naturally to most people. Forgiveness is an action that requires that I give up my right to my anger, my feelings of being hurt, my loss. The greater the offense – murder, rape, betrayal, humiliation – the greater becomes the miracle of forgiveness. The

more challenging the giving of forgiveness becomes the greater power needed to offer it.

The world is not a forgiving place. We do have our rights. And there needs to be justice in the world. And Christians should be at the forefront in the preservation of rights and the fight for justice. These are two things that God has granted to us in our society. And justice is a theme of righteousness in the Old Testament. Proverbs 21:3 "To do justice and judgement is more acceptable to the Lord than sacrifice." Fighting for justice is not a substitute for preaching the Gospel but should be an outworking of the Gospel within us.

But on a personal level in our relationships sometimes those lines of our rights and justice intersect in the form of a cross – just like the one Jesus died on. There was no justice in Jesus' death, and He gave up His right to himself so the miracle of salvation could be accomplished. And sometimes Jesus asks us to perform the miracle of forgiveness. Giving up our rights to be justified and to become like Him and give forgiveness. Even if we receive justice but do not give forgiveness we create our own prison of resentment. The miracle of forgiveness sets the prisoner free – and astounds the world.

Our Bible school Dean once shared, "You need to forgive everybody, but you don't need to work in the same vineyard." And on a contemporary note, that great "philosopher" Gomer Pyle, USMC said "Fool me once shame on you; fool me twice shame on me."

John 14:12 tells us we will do even greater work through Him. And in today's world forgiveness is not only wisdom but a miracle.